

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07 /102 W
-----041822 230625Z /20

R 222025Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0030
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12105

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, AG, WA
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN
INITIATIVE

REFS: (A) BONN 11563; (B) STATE 160133; (C) USUN 1964

1. WE MET WITH ALGERIAN AMBSAHNOUN ON JULY 22 AT HIS RESIDENCE AND
THANKED HIM FOR THE POSITIVE ROLE HE HAD PLAYED AT
MAPUTO. SAHNOUN SAID OUR CALL WAS MOST OPPORTUNE,
SINCE HE WOULD BE LEAVING BONN LATER THE SAME DAY ON AN
EXTENDED FACT-FINDING TOUR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. SINCE HE
EXPECTED TO MEET WITH SWAPO LEADERS, AS WELL AS PRESI-
DENT KAUNDA AND OTHER FRONT LINE LEADERS, HE SAID HE
WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN ANY BACKGROUND WE COULD
PROVIDE ON THE CAPE TOWN TALKS.

2. SAHNOUN LISTENED ATTENTIVELY WHILE WE BRIEFED HIM
ON THE CONTENTS USUN 1964 (REF C). AFTERWARDS HE
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REMARKED THAT ALTHOUGH HE ALREADY KNEW OF THE BASIC
CONCLUSIONS OF THE TALKS, HE FOUND THE ADDITIONAL
DETAILS MOST HELPFUL. HE ASKED IF ANYTHING OF IMPORTANCE
HAD TRANSPIRED SINCE THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS. WE
ANSWERED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WESTERN FIVE HAD
BRIEFED THE OAU MEMBER STATES, THE SYG, COUNCIL FOR
NAMIBIA AND OTHERS, INCLUDING SWAPO, ALONG THE LINES HE

HAD JUST BEEN BRIEFED. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE CG WAS AWAITING SWAPO'S RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK TO DISCUSS ITS VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS.

3. SAHNOUN SAID THAT LUSAKA WAS THE FIRST STOP ON HIS VISIT AND THAT HE EXPECTED TO MEET WITH SWAPO LEADERS THERE. HE WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO GO TO NEW YORK TO PRESENT THEIR CASE AS BEST THEY COULD. KEEPING THE MOMENTUM GOING WAS IN SWAPO'S INTERESTS AS WELL; DELAY ONLY PLAYED INTO SOUTH AFRICA'S HANDS.

4. NAMIBIA WAS THE ONLY AREA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE SAID, WHERE THERE WAS A REASONABLE BASIS FOR OPTIMISM. SOUTH AFRICA WAS MUCH LESS LIKELY TO FEEL THREATENED BY AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE ECONOMIC TIES AND PERSONNEL WHICH WERE CERTAIN TO REMAIN. IN ADDITION, THE PROCESS TOWARD PEACEFUL CHANGE HAD ALREADY BEGUN, THANKS TO THE WESTERN INITIATIVE.

5. SAHNOUN CONCLUDED BY OFFERING HIS THANKS FOR THE BRIEFING AND ASKING THAT HE BE KEPT INFORMED OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IF POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT SAHNOUN TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO RESPOND TO OUR INQUIRY ON JULY 13 AND THEN SAND-CONFIDENTIAL

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WICHED AN APPOINTMENT INTO HIS ONE AND ONE-HALF DAYS BACK IN BONN SEEMS TO BE AN INDICATION OF HIS INTEREST. HE APPEARED TO BE SINCERE. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE WILL NOT ADVISE SWAPO IN THE DIRECTION OF MODERATION AS HE INDICATED ALTHOUGH WHAT HIS EFFECT WILL BE, OF COURSE, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IF THE DEPARTMENT SO DESIRES, WE WILL CONTACT HIM AGAIN AFTER HIS RETURN FOR ANOTHER GENERAL DISCUSSION. STOESSEL

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